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## **RDA Awarded Brownfields Assessment Grant**

*\$600,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for brownfields assessments in Gary, Hammond and East Chicago.*

Crown Point, IN (June 6, 2014) – The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) has received a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for brownfields assessments in Gary, Hammond and East Chicago. The grant was secured with the cooperation of our brownfields coalition partners, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and the three cities.

This is the second award to the RDA for the brownfields coalition from EPA. In 2013, RDA received \$800,000 to establish a revolving loan fund for brownfield cleanup projects in Gary, Hammond and East Chicago. The new assessment grant will help the coalition determine where best to direct funds.

“This new grant is another example of how we benefit by working together as a region,” says RDA Grants Manager Jillian Huber. “These funds will make our communities cleaner, safer and more attractive places to live and work.”

“There is a great deal of environmental work to be done throughout Northwest Indiana,” notes Kathy Luther, Director of Environmental Management at NIRPC. “By forming a three-city coalition and working closely with other partners including the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and EPA, we are better able to make progress in the region and create conditions for economic growth.”

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**About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority**

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including former Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit [www.rdatransformation.com](http://www.rdatransformation.com) or [www.in.gov/rda](http://www.in.gov/rda)